

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the examiner's indication that claims 5, 6, 8-10, 16, 17, 19-21, and 31-44 are allowed.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 16 have been amended to obviate Examiner's objections. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of Examiner's objections.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 7, 11-13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,341,452 to Korling ("Korling") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,732,368 to Mahlab ("Mahlab"). The Examiner states that Korling discloses, among other things, that "at least two of said first, second and third brackets are relatively translatable along a substantially linear length," a recitation of independent claims 1 and 11. Examiner cites Figures 1-3 and Col. 7, line 37 – Col. 8, line 45 of Korling for support.

Applicant respectfully submits that Korling fails to disclose a mounting assembly in which at least two of said first, second and third brackets are relatively translatable along a substantially linear length, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Korling discloses outer yoke 20 pivotable about vertical axis A. Korling, Col. 7, line 51. Korling discloses inner yoke 24 attached to outer yoke 20 by pivot assemblies 26. Korling, Col. 8, lines 18-19. Korling discloses mounting plate 34 pivotally joined to yoke 24 by pivot assembly 26'. Korling, Col. 8, lines 41-42.

The Examiner admits that Korling fails to disclose a second bracket which defines "a first linear slot and a second linear slot, said second and third brackets being engaged together by first and second fasteners, said first fastener extending through said first slot and said second fastener extending through said second slot wherein said first and second fasteners define said second axis and wherein said first and second fasteners are slidable in said first and second slots respectively" as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Applicant submits that Mahlab does not make up for the deficiencies of Korling. Mahlab discloses only a single bracket 21 coupled to disc member 17. Bracket 21 is not connected to arms 11 and 12. Bracket 21 in Mahlab is equivalent to the first bracket in the present claimed invention which is coupled to the camera body. Applicant submits that there is no disclosure or suggestion to combine Mahlab with Korling, except for Applicant's own disclosure and claims through improper

hindsight. Bracket 21 in Mahlab is equivalent to mounting plate 34 in Korling which is coupled to the camera 12. Therefore, even if Korling and Mahlab are improperly combined, there is no disclosure or suggestion to replace the second bracket (inner yoke 24 of Korling) with the camera bracket 21 of Mahlab. In other words, there is no disclosure of suggestion of providing first and second linear slots in the second bracket (inner yoke 24 of Korling) to couple the second and third brackets (inner yoke 24 and outer yoke 20 of Korling) together as recited in independent claims 1 and 11 of the present application.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 11 patentably define the invention over Korling and Mahlab and are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. Furthermore, claims 2, 7, 12-13, and 18 depend from independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, these dependent claims are allowable for at least the above-recited reasons, in addition to the additional recitations of the dependent claims.

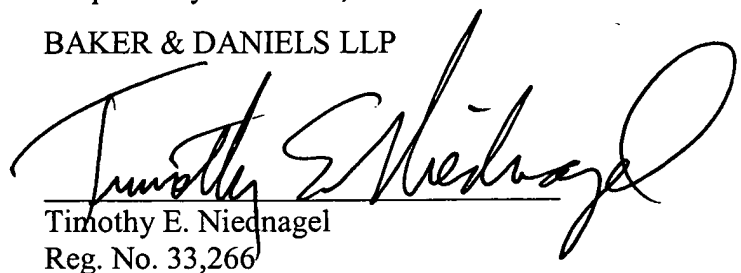
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that pending claims 1-3, 7, 11-14, and 18 are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

In the event that the examiner has questions related to this Amendment, or to the application in the general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

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